

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 9. 1709.

IF any Man thinks amiss of my telling you in one of my last, how useful the *French Power* has been in *Europe* to pull down the exorbitant Greatness of other Princes, let them examine the two following Heads, and object what they can.

1. This is a full Answer to the Objection of the *German Greatness*, as a Thing to be fear'd; at this Time let us but reduce *France* to its true Pitch of Power, such as may effectually secure us from Fear on that side; That *Little France* will then be a Security for, and assistant to us against the overgrowing Power of any other Potentate—
And 2. This is a true Reason why the Power of *France* should be reduc'd, *viz.* That they may with Safety be taken into the in-

terest of *Europe* again; for as they are now, it is plain, 'tis not to be done.

I told you, Exorbitant Power is the Monster we are in Pursuit of; let us see whence she comes, and what Kind of a Beast she is, for without doubt she is of a strange Heterogeneous Off-spring—

When Pride, a self-begetting Species, had swell'd with its own injected Filth, impregnate by some Infernal Warmth from the antient Tophet, and therefore calling *Sathan Father*, tho' of Truth her self old as Angels, and older than Hell— At the first Birth the seeming Mischief brought forth two Bastards, *Ambition* and *Usurpation*; and these again generating with their Sire, each of them conceiv'd a part; *Ambition*

tion brought forth *Tyranny*, and *Usurpation Conquest*— These last, after having been separately the Parents of innumerable Plagues to Mankind, by a mysterious conjunction Conception, and by like Infernal Generation, brought forth this Heterogeneous Birth, we are now speaking of, call'd *Exorbitant Power*— She was no sooner spawn'd, but she rang'd about the World feeding and fattning her self with the Liberties and the Wealth of Nations, till at last she grew so exorbitantly great, so deform'd and so formidable, that whole Kingdoms started at her Figure, were frightn'd with her first Appearance, and run trembling together to find out Means to suppress her— For some Ages of the World the People ingulph'd in Bondage, and blind Subjection to Monarchy, found no Remedy against the Ravages of this wild Creature. The Reason was plain; for most of the Monarchs of the Earth beginning by Infernal, not Divine Right, were in League with this Devil, as a most necessary Mischief, either to assist their insupportable Cruelties, and subject the World to their Arbitrary Lust of Rule, or else as a Foil to illustrate and set off their lesser Deformities, and excuse their other Brutalities.

Thus Exorbitant Power rang'd over the World for above 700 Years, under the first Race of Monarchs, till Nature dictating Safety to the Nations, and the Lust of Tyrants growing intollerable, the Eyes of Reason open'd, and the People saw, Liberty was their Due by Nature, and they had an Original Right to it— Then *Araxes* and *Belochus* with 400000 Men taking Arms, depos'd *Sardanapalus*, and founded the *Median* and *Persian* Empires, under Laws and Regulations consistent with common Safety, and built upon the Ruins of the *Assyrian*— Now, for some Ages, the Beast, we speak of, *Exorbitant Power*, seem'd driven out of Human Reach— Till the Two well-balance'd Governments of *Medea* and *Persia* joyning again in *Darius*, the Monster appear'd again, but was soon unkenne'd by the *Macedonian*— And yet *Alexander* had been in some Danger of harbouring her again, had he not quickly dy'd, and left the subdu'd World to the Partition of his great Officers, who by

sharing the Exorbitant Extent of his Empire into Four, secur'd the People from the Mischief that might have follow'd— Exorbitant Power shifted Hands then to *Rome*, and there she grew up to a horrid Magnitude; all the Nations of the World felt the Weight of her Paws, and suffer'd under her unsatiable Fury; mighty Kingdoms were laid waste by her ravenous Brood, the *Carthaginian*, *Macedonian*, *Syrian*, *Persian*, the *Gauls*, *Britains*, *Belgians*, *Helvetians*, *Jews*, *Egyptians*, *Tyrians*, and a vast Number of People, Tongues, Kindreds, and Nations, sunk under her lawless, devouring Violence; and in short, the whole World was for a great many Ages trampled upon, ravag'd and depopulated by the Excursions of this wild Beast.

Till at last grown fat, and gorg'd with Blood, her own Whelps, the spurious Offspring of her Luxury and Greatness, falling out among themselves, they ripp'd open the Bowels of their Mother, fed on her Vitals, made themselves fat with her luscious Moisture, and left her Carcass to be torn to pieces by the *Goths*, *Vandals*, *Partians*, *Greeks*, *Franks*, *Germans*, *Pisls*, and all the Nations out of whose Ruins, and at whose Expences, she had grown so great.

These, grown wise by Experience, erected Nature's Laws of Liberty upon, and plac'd them superior to the Lusts of Princes, sharing the Rights and Powers of Government among the Society, viz. between the Governing and the Governed, imposing Laws and Limits to Sovereigns, which whensoever they exceeded, it became the Right of Subjects to dispute with them, and depose them; and accordingly upon this Foundation Kings submit to give a new Sort of Assurance to their People, call'd *Coronation Oaths*, a Thing till then unknown to the World— These were the *Pacta Conventa*, or Claims of Right of the People on Condition of which they submitted to be govern'd by such and such Persons, and on the Breach of which they frequently, being over ridden, cast their Riders, and trampled down their Tyrants.

Justice having thus gotten above Tyranny, and Law obtain'd the just Due, Right, Superiority over the Crown, all the Nations wisely

wisely revolving the Miseries that Usurpation and Invasion had brought upon Mankind; nay, their very Kings concurring, found by just Observation, that all proceeded from the Insinuation of this Golden-headed Monster, EXORBITANT POWER. They found it by sad Experience, that

*Nature has left this Tincture in the Blood,
That all Men would be Tyrants if they could;
If they forbear their Neighbours to devour,
'Tis not for Want of Will, but Want of Power.*

To prevent therefore the Eternal Confusions, which Ambition and Pride would keep the World continually agitated by, they drew this Consequence from the whole, and which pass'd for an uncontroversed Maxim ever since, among all the Politicks of Europe, viz. That to preserve the publick Peace of this Part of the World, A BALANCE OF POWER should be maintain'd among all the several Monarchies, Commonwealths, and Governments of Christendom—And thus Exorbitant Power, the horrid Monster we have been talking of, has been shut out, and banish'd Human Society in these Parts for several Ages.

It remains now to examine, what Attempts this Child of Hell has made to return among us.—And how industriously the Devil has been assistant to that Return; for Slavery and Subjection has been one of the Darlings of Hell, by which he has found his Infernal Kingdom has encreas'd in the World.

And therefore the Phantastick Doctrine of the Divine Right of Princes has been most industriously supported by the Devil in the World.—And Tyrants have endeavour'd on the other hand to be first worshipp'd, that they might with the more Ease bring their People to such a blind Obedience, as their usurp'd Authority requir'd.—This is apparent in the early Days of Tyranny, when the Devil and Ninus made the great Compact between Tyranny and Idolatry, introducing them hand in hand into the World. Ninus giving the Devil the Compliment of Idolatry, in Deifying his Father Belus, and building Temples and Altars to

him in *Nineveh*; and the Devil complimenting Ninus in giving him the Homage of a Tyrant from his Altars, and making Religion concur in instructing the People in a blind absolute Subjection to him—

This is an excellent Genealogy for the *Fus Divinum* of Monarchy, and the farthest Piece of Antiquity the Champions of it can retreat to; for all before was Patriarchal or Paternal.

This absolute Tyranny being one of the *Ambo-Dexter* Progenitors of Exorbitant Power as above; the same Natural Justice that depos'd the first, has exploded the last; and now the Powers of Europe have brought it to a Point, viz. That it is absolutely necessary for the Peace of Human Society, that this monstrous ungovernable Beast of Prey, call'd Exorbitant Power, shall be no more admitted into any Part of the Government of Mankind; no Nation, no Prince is to be permitted to harbour her, much less to receive her into their Councils, and nourish, propagate, and encourage her; and if any presume to break this great receiv'd Axion of publick Good, the adjacent Powers are bound by the great Law of Safety to joyn, confederate, struggle and fight to remove her, and never give over, till they have brought the said Prince or Nation to dismiss and disown her.

Since the Dissolution of the *Roman* Empire as aforesaid, no extraordinary Attempts had been made for the receiving and harbouring this venomous Creature.—*Charlemain* was the only Prince that was suspected, having obtain'd the Empire of *Germany*, Kingdoms of *France*, *Spain*, &c.—But he was really a good Man in the first Place, and entertain'd no such foolish ambitious Thoughts, as universal Domination usually puts into the Heads of Men of Pride.—The Emperor *Charles V.* was the next who laid the Foundation of Exorbitant Power, and left it to his Posterity, and they indeed prosecuted it with Violence and Oppression sufficient, as *Philip II.* upon his Subjects of the *Netherlands*, and *Ferdinand II.* Emperor of *Germany*, upon the Liberties of *Germany*.

But according to the receiv'd Maxim above, the rest of Europe immediately leagu'd against

against this voraciously furious Creature; Francis I. of France, and Henry VIII. of England, the two most powerful Princes of that Age, joyn'd to oppose Charles V. and heartily struggled with him all his Life, till meeting with so much Opposition, he despair'd of maintaining his Exorbitant Designs, and left off not the Contention only, but the very Crown it self, tho' possess'd of the greatest Wealth, Dominion, and Power of any Prince in the World, having in his Hands the whole Empire of Germany, and the Kingdom of Hungaria, the whole Kingdom of Spain, the whole Dutch Common-Wealth, *that now is*, the Kingdom of Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, the Dutchy of Millain and Mariva, all Flanders, and the Low-Countries, Burgundy, and the Franche-Comie, the Kingdom of Tunis in Barbary, and the Empires of Peru and Mexico, with the whole discover'd Continent and Islands of America, for no European Nation but his Subjects had then set their Foot in America.

After his Death, tho' his Dominions were divided between Ferdinand and Philip, yet we shall see, this same abhor'd Creature was entertain'd by them, in Conjunction, as one of the House of Austria——We shall see, how Europe dislodg'd her from thence, and how she has taken Footing in France, with the Reason and Necessity of removing her from her new Covert, and perhaps may give some Schemes, how she shall not only be excluded from France, hunted down, and forced to shift her Haunts; but how she shall be effectually prevented sheltering in any other Part of Europe; and a true Method for this will put an End to our ridiculous Suggestions, about this or that Way of Establishing the Peace of Europe.

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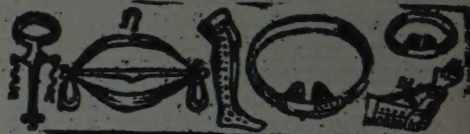
The Truth of the Matter.

THEse are to certifye, That Mr. Joshua Stephens did at the Swan Tavern in Barbolomew-Lane, on the third of March

last, acknowledge, in the Presence of Me and Mr. Spinke, that he translated Dr. Greenfield's Book that is printed with Mr. John Marian's Name in its Title Page, and that he the said Stephens waited on Dr. Greenfield with every Sheet as he did the same, the better to be assur'd, that his Translation was expressive of the Doctor's Intention. And the said Stephens further added, that when Mr. Marten's Title Page of his *Appendix* was first hung up at the Exchange, he waited on Mr. Marten, and inform'd him, that *discre quæ pudit scribere jussit*, &c. was false Latin, because the Word (*dicere*) and not (*discre*) ought to have been us'd; but, said he, Mr. Marten answer'd, that he was advis'd to use the Word (*discre*) rather than (*dicere*). Witness my Hand,

This I am ready to confirm by an Affidavit.

F. Cave.
F. Cave



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N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, lives at the Place above-mention'd, and is very skilful in the Business of her own Sex.